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### 6 Streams of Church Renewal

- **Contemplative or Prayer-filled Life**
  - Spending time with God in prayer and meditation, expressing devotion to God
  - Weakness can be the contemplative who fails to do creative work
- **Holiness or Virtuous Life**
  - Having pure thoughts, words and actions, and overcoming temptation
  - Virtue in thought, word and action
  - Weakness can be the moralist who focuses on sin and neglects compassion

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- **Charismatic or Spirit Empowered Life**
  - Welcomes the Holy Spirit while nurturing and exercising one's spiritual gifts
  - Weakness can be the charismatic who neglects to proclaim the gospel
- **Evangelical or Word-centered Life**
  - Sharing and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and reading the Scriptures
  - Weakness can be the evangelist who feels no need for the Holy Spirit

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Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

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Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

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Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

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Matthew 25:31-46

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

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Matthew 22:37-40

*37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

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- Imago Dei = “image of God”

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Micah 6:8

- *<sup>8</sup> He has shown all you people what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.*

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What is Justice?

- “Giving humans their due as people in the image of God.”  
» Tim Keller in *Generous Justice*

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Self-righteous service...

- *Relies on human effort, whereas true service flows out of a relationship with God.*
- Listen to the promptings of God as you begin and lean on his strength to do the task.
- *Is impressed with the “big deal,” whereas true service makes no distinction between the large and the small.*
- Be indiscriminate in your choice, knowing that God often considers the small task the most important.

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Self-righteous Service...

- *Requires external rewards, whereas true service rests contented in hiddenness.*
- Avoid doing things for others as a means of getting applause or reward, relying instead on the divine nod of approval
- *Is concerned with results, whereas true service is free of the need to calculate them.*
- Do not let your expectations guide your service, and don't be disappointed if your service effects no external change.

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Self-righteous Service...

- *Picks and chooses whom to serve, whereas true service is indiscriminate in its ministry.*
- Be careful not to neglect the poor and lowly in favor of the rich and powerful – or vice versa!
- *Is affected by moods and whims, whereas true service ministers on the basis of need.*
- Do not let your feelings, which ebb and flow, determinine your actions; rather, let the service discipline your feelings.

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Self-righteous Service...

- *Is temporary, whereas true service is ongoing.*
- Compassion is a way of life that spontaneously meets human need, not merely an occasional helping hand.
- *Is insensitive, whereas true service withholds as freely as it gives.*
- Listen with tenderness and patience before you begin. Be sensitive to what people really need, not merely what you think they need.

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Self-righteous Service...

- *Fractures community, whereas true service builds community.*
- Be careful not to let your “good works” become debts that others must repay. Direct your efforts toward building unity in the community.

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So What?

- Prayerfully consider attending the Urbana Missions Conference, Dec. 27-31, 2012
  - Urbana.org
- Global Awareness Week Service Day, November 10, 2012
- FIRE Serves – ongoing on the Boston Common
  - Cathryn Ross knows all about this!

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- Send an encouraging note to someone struggling
- Volunteer to help cook for Kingston House
- Donate blood
- Recycle your trash
- Guard someone’s reputation
- Serve in “hiddenness,” without expecting being noticed or thanked
- Let others serve you
- Look for an area of injustice and address it. Take a stand!
- Care for the prisoners – visit, help with Angel Tree

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- Be aware of current events
- Read a book on the compassionate life
  - *Generous Justice*, Tim Keller
  - *Just Courage and Good News about Injustice* by Gary Haugen
  - *The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical* by Shane Claiborne
  - *The New Friars: The Emerging Movement Serving the World's Poor* by Scott Bessenecker

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Pray...

- “*Lord Jesus, show me someone whom I can serve.*”

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Am I Wealthy?

- **Financial:** Having the money to purchase goods and services
- **Emotional:** Being able to choose and control emotional responses, particularly in negative situations, without engaging in self-destructive behavior.
- **Mental:** Having the mental abilities and acquired skills (reading, writing, computing) to deal with daily life

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- **Spiritual:** Believing in divine purpose and guidance.
- **Physical:** Having physical health and mobility.
- **Support Systems:** Having friends, family, and backup resources available to access in times of need. These are external resources.

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- **Relationships/Role Models:** Having frequent access to adult(s) who are appropriate, who are nurturing, and who do not engage in self-destructive behavior.
- **Knowledge of Hidden Rules:** Knowing the unspoken cues and habits of a group.

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